

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

**Art Unit 3763**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Examiner: Michael M. Thompson

Applicants: Vincent L. Vaillancourt

Serial No: Division of Serial No. 10/116,776, filed April 4, 2002

TITLE: Needle Guard

Customer No.:

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please amend the herewith filed divisional application as follows: